1   47. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the plurality of

2   program modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program

3   module, and a fully-dependent program module.

1   48. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the objective

2   criteria includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

1   49. (Once Amended) A method of handling a computer task using an intelligent agent,

2   the method comprising the steps of:

3   (a) based upon an objective criteria, selecting at least one selected program

4   module from a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain

5   knowledge] autonomy, wherein the plurality of program modules are each configured to

6   handle a common computer task that includes conducting negotiations in an electronic

7   commerce application; and

8   (b) configuring an intelligent agent to execute the at least one selected program

9   module to handle the computer task.

1   62. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the plurality of program

2   modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program module, and

3   a fully-dependent program module.

1   63. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the objective criteria

2   includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

1   64. (Once Amended) An apparatus for handling a computer task, comprising:

2   a memory; and

3   an intelligent agent resident in the memory, the intelligent agent including at least

4   one of a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain knowledge]

Page 2 of 8
Serial No. 09/100,595
IBM Docket RO996-052L
WH&E IBM/04B
Amendment and Response
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